EXTRA

THE MONARCH

SAINT LEO COLLEGE No.4 September 20, 1967

This evening at eight p.m. the Student Government Association of Saint Leo College will hold an open meeting in the Student Center. The only possible way to become an intelligent and responsible member of this community of ours is for you to attend.

the MONARCH

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE STUDENT BODY

The famous song writer and folk singer Bob Dylan, stated in one of his most renouned works that "The times they are a change'in." This has never been more true than at this present time and at this particular place.

Our world, our nation, is caught up in such a termoil of fast paced change that it is hard to keep abreast of current affairs from day to day.

The problems seem insurmountable as they keep piling up, and one such problem has, perhaps, touched some of you personally during this past summer; this is the problem of equality among man and racid relations in particular. These ideas may seem somewhat removed from our day-to-day life at St. Leo College but these problems are now on our doorstep and need to be acted upon.

During the past several days a series of events have taken place which I believe each of us should be concerned with. Two of our students, Van Johnson and Larry Moore--both Negroes, a Sophomore and a Freshman, and both basketball players-have had their rights as people and Saint Leo College students infringed upon. The facts of the matter are these:
1) that they needed to wash some clothing, thus they went to Wilson's Laundromat on Route 52 across from Pasco High Stadium;
2) that they were refused admittance by the proprietor because of their race;
3) that the proprietor has expressed the thought that the Ku Klux Klan would close down his business if he did admit them.
4) that he would rather close down his business than allow a Negro to do washing at his establishment and
5) that he would call the police if anyone attempted to force the issue through physical activity.

As I see the matter, this is an infringement upon not only the rights of two individual members of our student body but a direct insult to the entire student body and college community of St. Leo College.

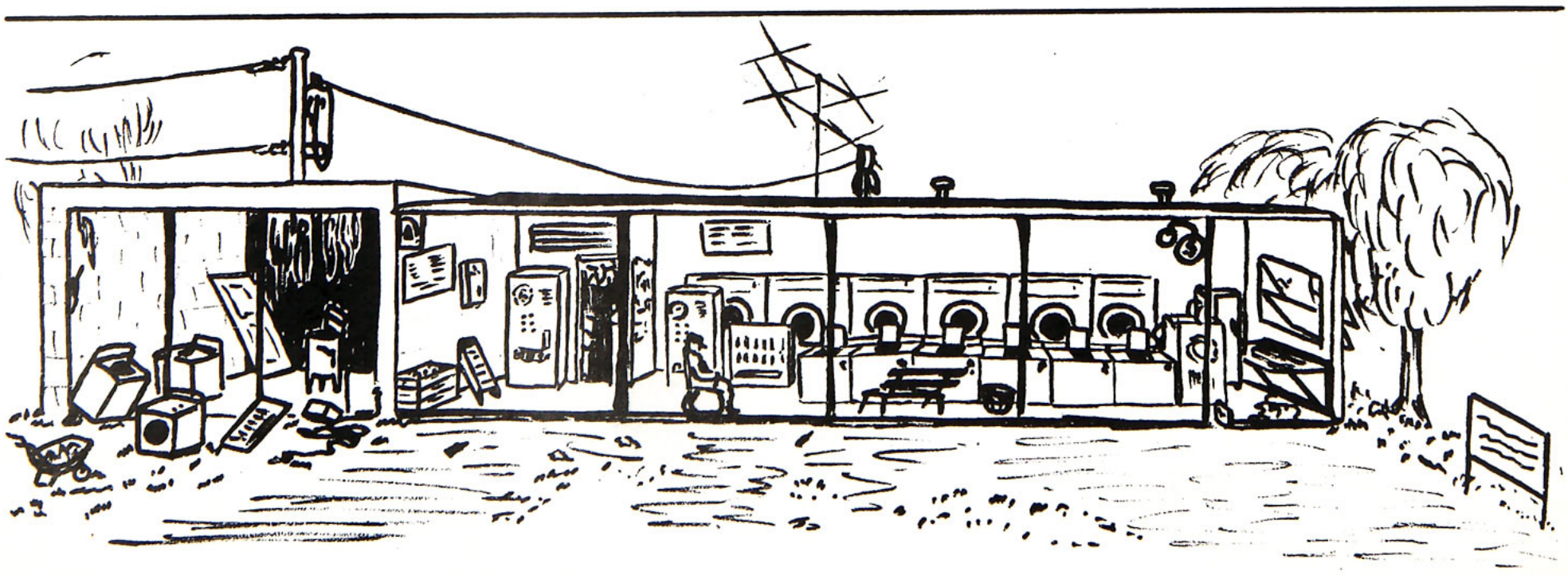
For this reason I am appealing to you for two purposes, first to acknowledge the confrontation we are faced with and to maturly, calmly, and in a peaceable manner do something about it. And second, to form together into a collective unified body to block this infringement of personal and group rights.

I am proposing that the first steps to be taken are purely economic, that we, as a body, do not frequent this place of business.

Finally, I am appealing to all of you who can possibly make it to attend a special open meeting of the Student Government Association this evening, September 20th at 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of the McDonald Center. At this time please feel free to express your views and ideas of how to deal with the situation at hand.

See you Wednesday evening.

Michael J. Lannon

President S.G.A.

Wilson's Laundromat on Route 52 across from Pasco High Stadium.